





## PIPELINE STORAGE

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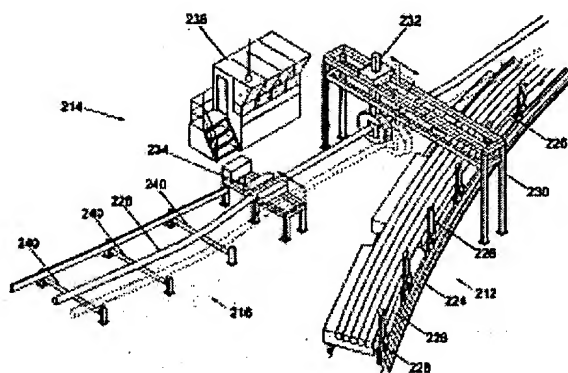
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 WO9741054 (A1)  
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PCT No. PCT/GB97/01130 Sec. 371 Date Dec. 24, 1998 Sec. 102(e) Date Dec. 24, 1998 PCT Filed Apr. 24, 1997 PCT Pub. No. WO97/41054 PCT Pub. Date Nov. 6, 1997A storage system for storing continuous lengths of rigid pipe, particularly for storage of pipe prior to the spooling of the pipe onto the pipe storage reel of a marine pipelay vessel. The system comprises a loop of rail track with a plurality of rail bogies arranged around the circumference of the loop. The bogies are adapted to retain and receive multiple turns of the length of pipe extending around the loop. The radius of curvature of the loop is selected such that the bending of the pipe around the loop does not result in plastic deformation of the pipe. Arrangements for loading and offloading the pipe may include: a pipe guide suspended from a gantry spanning the track and a pipe loading/offloading path; pipe tensioning means located downstream of the pipe guide in the offloading direction; and an "expansion arc" extending from the loading/offloading point to allow variations in the length of the pipeline path extending from the loop to a vessel mooring location.



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